Knowledge Commission, in its report, has *inter-alia* recommended that an increasingly globalizing world demands a dynamic, responsive to change and well informed, autonomous regulatory body to meet the emerging challenges for initiating, promoting, monitoring and enforcing standards of medical education at all level across the country. The working group has further recommended that such a regularory body should have genuine autonomy provided with adequate authority and managed by highly qualified medical educationist with record of integrity and proven credential. The report of the working group on medical education formed by the National Knowledge Commission has been received in the Ministry and is under consideration.

Health care project by Intel Corporation and the Ministry

1256. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Intel Corporation and his Ministry announced scaling up of health-care projects in India, a global initiative, to provide people in developing countries with the benefits of better, faster access to information and communications technology;

(b) if so, whether projects include a tele-health programe for community hospitals and a school health monitoring system; and

(c) if so, whether there is one such project in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI . RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) A pilot project on e-Health has been taken up by Intel Corporation at Community Hospital, Government Hospital, Tindivanam and Primary Health Centre, Mailam in Viluppuram District from 3rd September, 2007.

The pilot project includes e-Health programme at St. Philominal Girls Higher Secondary School, Tindivanam in Viluppuram District.

Hospital wastes in Delhi

1257. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a), whether it is a fact that Delhi's hazardous hospital waste is being indiscriminately burnt in incinerators without proper segregation;

(b) whether during the burning process, cancer causing fumes are being released in the air; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address this environmental hazard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified Bio-medical (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 and amendments thereof. These rules specify about collection, segregation, labeling storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of Bio-medical Wastes (BMW) and are mandatory for every occupier of an institution generating bio-medical wastes to take steps to ensure that such wastes are handled without any adverse effect to human and environment. There are "Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facilities

(CBWTF)", which provide facility to treat bio-medical wastes of Government Hospitals as well as private sector healthcare units. Inspections are carried out by Delhi Pollution Control Committee to ensure that incineration takes place at the optimum temperature so that the generations of these obnoxious fumes do not take place.

CCFS Sub-Committee on synthetic colours in sweets and beverages

1258. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Additives and Contaminants Sub-Committee of CCFS has recommended conduct of national level survey on maximum level of synthetic colours in sweets and beverages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE: MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Food Additives and Contaminants Sub-Committee of CCFS considered the comments on draft PFA Amendment Rules pertaining to lowering of maximum limit of synethetic food colours (Erythrosine and Sunset Yellow FCF). The Sub-Committee observed that the proposed draft rules are based on results of limited survey and hence a national level survey should be conducted on the issue. A decision on the need for national level survey is to be taken by the Government.

Steps to check the quacks and untrained doctors

†1259. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the people are cheated by the quacks and untrained doctors in the country who give misleading advertisments for guaranteed treatment; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the activities of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The State Medical Councils who grant registration to practitioners take action where called for against quacks. The provisions exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to take action against unqualified/unregistered practitioners of medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provision can be punished with imprisonment and fine under respective Acts. The responsibility of enforcement of the statutory provisions is that of various State Governments

Use of synthetic vanilla in ice-cream

1260. SHRI P.R.RAJ AN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that synthetic vanilla is widely used in ice-creams;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.